

NEWSLETTER



DIVINE PROVIDENCE PROVINCE

FEBRUARY 2026



CONSECRATED LIFE

- a living Flame and Prophecy of Presence

Dear Confreres

At this sacred moment of our consecrated journey, I wish to reach out to each one of you with a heart filled with gratitude, hope, and fraternal affection. The Church, through the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life, reminds us that consecrated life is truly a "Prophecy of Presence," as expressed in its reflection on January 28, 2026: a presence that remains close to humanity where dignity is wounded and faith is tested. Our world is marked by violence, migration, poverty, loneliness, and a loss of hope. In such a world, we are not called to escape, but to remain like a seed scattered in history, like silent leaven in society, and like artisans of peace in the midst of suffering.

1. Consecrated Life: A living Flame

Consecrated life is not a career, not a social role, and not a comfortable spiritual arrangement. It is a total offering of life consumed in love. Like the candle placed on the altar, we are called to burn not for ourselves, but for God and for His people. The Gospel reminds us that no one lights a lamp and hides it, but places it where it gives light to all (Mt 5:15). To be consecrated is



Consecrated Life



to be set apart, not away from humanity, but deeply for humanity. The world does not need religious who merely function; it needs religious who shine, who burn with compassion, who carry peace, and who remain faithful even when tired.

2. Peace Begins Within: The Interior Sanctuary

Before we can become candles of peace for others, we must rediscover peace within. Many of us carry hidden burdens of ministry, emotional loneliness, silent discouragement, wounds that remain unspoken. The Church teaches that consecrated persons are called to live from an interior communion with Christ, for without this our external works become heavy and dry. Peace is not the absence of conflict, but the presence of Christ. Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you" (Jn 14:27). Dear confreres, the first mission field is our own heart. Let us return often to silence, prayer, Eucharistic adoration, and the gentle presence of the Lord, because only a heart at peace can become a bearer of peace.

3. Renewing Fidelity to the Charism and Consecrated Life

At every stage of life, the Lord asks us anew: "Do you still love Me?" (Jn 21:16). Fidelity is not simply perseverance in vows; it is daily rekindling the first fire. We must renew fidelity to prayer, fraternity, the poor, the Church, and the Founder's spirit. Our charism is not a memory but a living flame entrusted to us. Let us not allow routine to replace passion, nor discouragement to dim the light. Consecrated life must remain a joyful yes, a continual return to the love that first called us.

4. Let this Lent be different

Let this Lent be different by becoming like the poor widow in the Gospel, who offered not much in the eyes of the world, but everything in the eyes of God. Lent is not about great external sacrifices, but about a sincere heart that gives itself fully to the Lord. Like her two small coins, our simple prayers,

hidden acts of charity, forgiveness, and trust can become a true offering of thanksgiving. May this season lead us to give not from our abundance, but from our love, and to walk closer with Jesus in humility and faith. Let us entrust ourselves to Mary, Mother of Consecrated Life, that she may keep our flame alive until our last breath.

5. Sr. Marcellina Bosatta: February 04, 2026

We remember on 4th February a sweet soul Sr. Marcellina Bosatta who did not preach with words or lead with authority; she preached by remaining Silence and brought peace by her gestures. Her life was a faithful and loving presence among the poor, the abandoned, and the forgotten. In community life, she became an artisan of peace, teaching by example that unity, forgiveness, and mutual service are essential signs of the Gospel.

6. The World Day of the Sick - February 11, 2026

The World Day of the Sick, established by St. John Paul II in 1992, is a privileged moment of prayer, spiritual closeness, and reflection for the entire Church and for civil society, who are all called to recognize the face of Christ in our sick and vulnerable brothers and sisters. Pope Leo XIV has chosen the theme for the 34th World Day of the Sick, which will be celebrated on February 11, 2026: "The compassion of the Samaritan: loving by bearing another's pain" The theme of the World Day of the Sick, focusing on the Gospel figure of the Samaritan who shows love by caring for the suffering man who fell into the hands of thieves, highlights this aspect of love of neighbour.

7. Fraternal Congratulations and Thanksgiving

In this spirit of gratitude and joy, I extend heartfelt congratulations to Fr. Kuriakose SdC, who offered a thanksgiving Eucharistic Jubilee celebration on the 25th year of his Priestly Ordination. May your priesthood always burn with love for Christ and His people. I also congratulate our confreres Fr. Amalraj, Fr. Stalin, Fr. Gabriel, Fr. Rishar and Fr. Kalaiselvan who celebrate ten years of priesthood; your fidelity is a testimony that God remains faithful through the years. Finally, to the first batch of retreatants (14-19, Feb 2026), we offer our prayerful best wishes.

FR. GNANARAJ SDC
Provincial Superior

PROVINCIAL CALENDAR

04-05/02/2026	-	Mission Directors & Parish Priests Meeting @ DGMS - Chennai
09-11/02/2026	-	Bangalore Community
14-19/02/2026	-	Retreat @ Nilakkottai, Dindigul

FORMATORS MEETING - 2026



The DPP Formators' Meet was held on January 20-21, 2026, at Don Guanella Major Seminary, Chennai. The meeting began on January 20 with an inaugural prayer service animated by Rev. Fr. J. Amalraj SdC, the Vice-Provincial Superior. Rev. Fr. R. Ganaraj SdC, the Provincial Superior, formally welcomed the formators from the various stages of formation and extended a warm greeting to the resource persons, Rev. Fr. J. Samson Rajasegaran and Rev. Fr. J. Amalraj, who were duly honoured.

The first session was led by Rev. Fr. J. Samson Rajasegaran on the theme "The Formator: in the Light of the Charism and Vision of Don Guanella." Drawing from the charism of St. Louis Guanella, the session highlighted the formator's role as pastor, educator, and spiritual father, called to form primarily through accompaniment rather than control. Formation was presented as a holistic process integrating human, spiritual, doctrinal, and apostolic dimensions, rooted in charity, humility, prayer, and trust in Divine Providence. Emphasis was placed on the exemplary life of the formator, respect for the individuality and gradual growth of each candidate, and the necessity of correction exercised with gentleness, patience, and mercy, in keeping with the principle *In Omnibus Caritas*.

The second session focused on intercultural formation as a vital dimension of contemporary religious formation. The importance of faith rooted in diverse cultural contexts and enriched through mutual complementarity was underlined. The session called for ongoing dialogue between cultural values and Gospel values, leading to authentic inculturation. Challenges related to multicultural and intercultural formation were

identified, and practical strategies were proposed, including participation in courses on intercultural formation, exposure to intercultural experiences through collaboration with other seminaries, and the consistent promotion of evangelical, religious, and priestly values. These measures aim to prepare confreres for global mission in the spirit of Guanellianity as a Global Guanellian Family rather than as vernacular communities.

During the afternoon session, formators from the various stages of formation presented the current situation, formation schedules, and pastoral realities of their respective houses. The sharing was marked by appreciation for the ongoing formative ministry and by an honest assessment of challenges, particularly those arising from the influence of the contemporary media environment on candidates in formation. The day concluded with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist presided over by Rev. Fr. J. Samson Rajasegaran.

On the second day, the Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Rev. Fr. J. Amalraj SdC, Vice-Provincial Superior, who offered a reflection centred on the three formative attitudes of Criticism, Confrontation, and Carefrontation. The morning session was dedicated to a reading and review of the DPP Formation Directory, with formators from the various stages of formation engaging in discussions aimed at proposing necessary amendments in response to present-day realities.

Subsequently, Rev. Fr. R. Ganaraj SdC, Provincial Superior, addressed the gathering, emphasizing that formation is a sacred responsibility entrusted to formators on behalf of the Church and the Congregation. Referring to the orientations of the General and Provincial





Chapters, he articulated key concerns and directives, including:

- The primacy of being men of God before becoming men of charity
- Cooperation between divine grace and human effort
- Accompaniment rather than measurable results
- Attentive listening and discernment
- Fidelity to the charism of St. Louis Guanella
- The importance of the visible presence of formators
- Prudent limitation of external commitments
- Special care for the weak and fragile
- Relating and associating with family members and their well-being
- The preparation of a personal formation project for each candidate and confrere
- Growth in mature fraternity
- The regular sharing of monthly formation programmes with the Provincial Superior

The Formators' Meet concluded with an exhortation by the Provincial Superior to live simplicity and authenticity, particularly in communion with the Universal Church during the celebration of the "Year of St. Francis of Assisi" on the occasion of the 800th anniversary of his death. Rev. Fr. J. Amalraj proposed a vote of thanks and concluded the meeting with the Angelus.

**"PRIESTLY FORMATION IS A CONTINUOUS JOURNEY OF CONFIGURATION
TO CHRIST THE SHEPHERD."**

— *Pastores Dabo Vobis*, 42 (St. John Paul II)

GUANELLIAN YOUTH MEETING

CHENNAI, DPP: The Divine Providence Province successfully organized the Guanellian Youth Meeting from 25th to 26th January. Youth participants from various communities, including Bangalore, Cuddalore, Dindigul, Vatluru, Kunnamalai, and Chennai, attended the programme, with a total of 45 youth actively participating throughout.

The first day began with prayer and a warm welcome to all participants. Fr. Ravi, SDB, delivered the first session on the topic "**Emotions and Feelings.**" He explained the different types of emotions experienced by young people and shared practical ways to manage them in daily life. The youth engaged actively, asking questions about overcoming negative emotions, handling anger, fear, stress, and disappointment. Fr. Ravi also taught simple exercises, including meditation, breathing techniques, and water therapy, helping participants understand the importance of inner peace and self-control.

The second session was delivered by Ms. Nancy ML, who spoke on the fundamental rights of every individual. She provided clarity on basic human and legal rights, explained how to approach the police when necessary, and outlined the proper procedure for filing an FIR. During the session, several participants shared personal family issues, including land disputes and ongoing legal cases. Ms. Nancy patiently listened to each participant and provided guidance and practical solutions.

In the evening, the youth participated in the Holy Eucharistic Celebration, celebrated by Rev. Fr. Abi. The Mass provided a moment of deep



spiritual renewal for all participants. Following the Mass, a joyful campfire programme included fellowship activities and fraternal games, which strengthened unity, friendship, and team spirit among the youth.

On the second day, the youth went on a pilgrimage to St. Thomas Mount Church, Little Mount Church, Besant Nagar, and Santhome Basilica. The pilgrimage was blessed by Rev. Fr. Perinayagam, who distributed rosaries to all participants. This experience helped the youth deepen their faith and reflect on the missionary life of St. Thomas the Apostle. "We are pilgrims on a journey, companions on the road" (Hebrews 11:13) reflected the spirit of the journey.

SPREADING WARMTH AND JOY



KOPPAKA: Guanella Bhavan's Guanellian Lay Movement, together with Guanellian fathers and brothers, celebrated Christmas on 21st December 2025 with a heartwarming charity event. The programme embodied kindness and generosity, with blankets distributed to those in need, bringing warmth and comfort to underprivileged families. A festive meal spread joy and created a sense of community, while a prayer session fostered unity and gratitude. The event exemplified the Guanellian spirit of serving the poor, promoting love and solidarity, and reflecting St. Louis Guanella's mission to create a social climate of respect and acceptance toward people living in moral and material poverty.

CELEBRATING TRUTH, PROGRESS, AND RESPONSIBILITY

KOPPAKA: Guanella Bhavan celebrated the 77th Republic Day of India with patriotic fervor. The formation community reflected on the constitutional values of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity, which resonate with the call to religious and social commitment. The Chief Guest, Rev. Fr. Ravi Kumar, a priest



of the Diocese of Eluru currently pursuing doctoral studies in Italy, hoisted the National Flag, instilling pride and gratitude among all present. A march past and inspiring speeches by Brothers Saban and Prince followed, setting a tone of reflection and celebration.

Rev. Fr. Ravi Kumar delivered a thought-provoking address, encouraging seminarians to progress in life with truthfulness, integrity, and justice, regardless of whether they pursue the priesthood. He emphasized the responsibility of youth to oppose civil, political, and social corruption actively and to work courageously for justice. The event concluded with the Republic Day pledge, leaving seminarians renewed in their commitment to nation-building and moral leadership.

ENGLISH ACADEMY

KOPPAKA: The second English Academy was successfully conducted by Bro. Shankar and Bro. Manas as Masters of Ceremony. The programme began with a soulful prayer song by Sundaram and his team, followed by a warm welcome address by Bro. Kasmir. Bro. Lili presented the minutes of the meeting, setting



the stage for the speeches that followed. Bro. Chandu spoke on the importance of social and emotional growth through play, emphasizing empathy, teamwork, and love. A melodious group song by Bro. Abja and his team added charm to the event, followed by Bro. Mantu's presentation on essential career skills in computer science. The energy continued with a group dance performance by Bro. Ramesh and team, and Bro. Nikhil motivated students with a talk on "Stress to Strength," encouraging them to face challenges positively. Bro. Vikash and his team showcased practical skills in a demonstration, and the programme concluded with the Presidential Address by Fr. Carlos and a heartfelt vote of thanks by Bro. Vikash.

DEDICATION MEDITATION



CHENNAI DGSS: On 28th January, volunteers from the Dedication Meditation group visited Don Guanella Special School. They conducted meditation sessions for students, helping them calm their minds, improve concentration, and practice sustained attention, fostering inner peace and focus.

MEDICAL CAMP



CHENNAI DGSS: On 20th January, a medical camp for parents was organized for the first time at Don Guanella Special School in collaboration with Meridian Hospital. The camp included general check-ups by Dr. Constantan, ophthalmology, ENT screening, and assessments of blood pressure, sugar, height, weight, thyroid function, ECG, orthopedics, gynecology, pulmonary function, and bone density. Under the guidance and cooperation of the school's priests, the camp was conducted successfully, benefiting a total of 63 parents who expressed their happiness and gratitude for the opportunity.

PONGAL FESTIVAL



CHENNAI DGSS: Pongal was celebrated with great enthusiasm on 13th January at Don Guanella Special School and Home. Fathers, teachers, children, and parents participated in the festival, where Pongal was traditionally prepared in three pots. The celebration included folk songs, cultural performances, and sports competitions. Prizes were awarded to children and parents who excelled, and the event concluded with a delicious traditional meal, leaving everyone joyful.

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

CHENNAI DGSS: Mohamed Thameem, a student of Don Guanella Special School enrolled in the Inclusive Education Programme at Arignar Anna Higher Secondary School, won the first prize for outstanding achievements in academics and sports during the school's centenary celebrations. The award was presented on 6th January 2026 by the Honourable Minister for School Education, Mr. Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi, bringing great pride to the school community.



REPUBLIC DAY

CUDDALORE: On 26th January, Republic Day was celebrated in Sagaya Madha Parish with a Holy Mass by Rev. Fr. S. P. Samy, who also hoisted the National Flag. Mr. Bosco Elizan, a teacher at St. Joseph's Higher Secondary School, delivered the Republic Day message, emphasizing India's freedom struggle, paying tribute to those who sacrificed for the nation, and reminding participants to honour the country's heritage. Rev. Fr. Vincent, Parish Priest, proposed a vote of thanks, and sweets were distributed to all at the end of the programme, organized by Mr. Don Bosco.

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PONGAL CELEBRATION

CUDDALORE: On 15th January, Pongal was joyfully celebrated in Sagaya Madha parish. Rev. Fr. Amalraj SdC, Vice Provincial, celebrated the Mass and



delivered the homily, highlighting that Pongal is a four-day harvest festival, observed from 15th to 17th January, and a time to thank the Lord for His blessings. After the Mass, various games were organized for the parishioners, with the Legion of Mary overseeing cooking and donations. The celebration concluded with smiling faces and joyful hearts.

ANNUAL SPORTS DAY

CUDDALORE, SJS: St. Joseph's Seminary conducted a variety of sports and literary events, fostering physical fitness, teamwork, creativity, and healthy competition. Sports included football, volleyball, basketball, table tennis, badminton, chess, carrom, and athletic events, while literary events such as quizzes, drawing, and poetry competitions provided opportunities for intellectual and artistic expression. Brothers were divided into three groups, with points awarded for performance, and the winning group will receive the championship title on Community Day, celebrating their excellence and team spirit.



CLASSICAL ACADEMY



CUDDALORE, SJS: The 2nd Classical Academy, conducted on 6th December by the Higher Secondary Brothers, focused on "Eucharist Living in the Spirit of St. Carlo Acutis: Formation, Friendship, and Mission." Bro. Infant spoke on St. Carlo's devotion to the Eucharist, Bro. Thamizh emphasized the importance of friendships in nurturing faith, and Bro. Beckham discussed St. Carlo's mission to spread the Gospel through technology. The chief guest, Ms. Maria from India's Prison Ministry, inspired attendees with her insights. Bro. Baison concluded the seminar with thanks to the speakers, organizers, and participants, highlighting the event's enriching discussions.

THE ANNUAL RETREAT

CUDDALORE, SJS: The Annual Retreat was held from 14th to 15th January 2026 at St. Joseph's Minor Seminary, Cuddalore, with the theme "Holidaying with God: Resting, Renewing, and Rejoicing in His Presence." A total of 42 seminarians actively participated in the retreat, entering wholeheartedly into

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the spirit of prayer and reflection. The retreat was preached by Rev. Fr. Amala Raj, the Vice Provincial, who gently guided the participants into an atmosphere of silence, prayer, and interior renewal. The retreat began with an invitation to unwind from daily routines and to open one's heart to God's loving presence. Through guided prayer and meditation on Scripture, the participants were helped to rediscover closeness with the Lord.

The sessions focused on living consciously in God's presence, especially amid modern distractions and digital challenges. The reflections encouraged the participants to integrate prayer into daily life and to experience God not as a distant presence but as a companion in ordinary moments. Opportunities for personal reflection, group sharing, and spiritual activities enabled deep listening, mutual encouragement, and sincere self-examination. Moments of silence, prayer, and final reflection fostered gratitude and inner clarity. The retreat concluded with a deep sense of spiritual refreshment and readiness to return to daily life with renewed faith, hope, and commitment to God's call.

REPUBLIC DAY



VATLURU: On 26th January, Fr. Assisi led Republic Day celebrations, with active participation from the sisters of the Adoration Convent and children from boys' homes. The national flag was hoisted, patriotic songs were sung, speeches delivered, and cultural dances performed. The celebrations concluded with games, refreshments, and prayers for the nation, filling hearts with gratitude for India's democratic values.

LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

SIVAGANGAI: On January 22, St. Guanella Anbagam Special School and Home



students embarked on an exciting field trip to their own field, where they got to witness and enjoy a traditional country-style cooking session with Country Chicken . The cooks and staff took charge of preparing the delicious meal, while the students observed, assisted, and learned about local ingredients, teamwork, and appreciation for nature.

The trip was a great opportunity for the students to connect with the outdoors and enjoy the fruits of the cooks' labor. The special educators played a crucial role in making the experience both fun and educational. The field trip was a resounding success, with students returning to school with big smiles and memories to cherish. It was a perfect example of experiential learning, where students learned by doing and exploring the world around them.

PONGAL FESTIVAL

SIVAGANGAI: On 13th January, Guanella Anbagam Special School & Home hosted a vibrant Pongal Festival, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of Tamil Nadu. The event was a resounding success, with students, staff, and guests coming together to celebrate the spirit of gratitude, community, and respect for nature. The celebration began with the traditional Pongal preparation, in



which everyone participated in cooking the sacred dish. This was followed by a heartfelt prayer and a delicious Pongal meal, fostering a sense of togetherness and unity. The afternoon was filled with exciting games and cultural activities, including a lucky corner, captivating dance performances, melodious music, and energetic song renditions. These events not only showcased the talents of the students but also enhanced the festive atmosphere.

The highlight of the celebration was the presence of Mr. Michael Raj, the Chief Guest, who distributed prizes to the winners and gifted new dresses to all the children, bringing immense joy and smiles to their faces. The event underscored the significance of Pongal a festival that embodies gratitude towards nature, strengthens community bonds, and promotes respect for all living beings. The celebration at Guanella Anbagam Special School & Home was a true testament to the enduring spirit of Tamil culture and traditions.

PONGAL CELEBRATION



MADURAI: On 14th January, a beautiful and meaningful celebration of Pongal was held for the good children of the Madurai community. In the afternoon, a meal was enjoyed together and was served traditionally on banana leaves. As per custom, a vegetarian meal with sweet Pongal and sugarcane was served. After the meal, the children were taken to the Eco Park in Thiruparankundram, Madurai. Delight was experienced on seeing the greenery, nature, and the joyful crowd celebrating the festival with family and friends. A wonderful time was had by the children as they ran around the park, and special joy was found in the merry-go-round. Later, after a light tiffin was had in the park, the children were taken to a large shopping mall, where various shops were visited and delicious ice cream was enjoyed. The day was filled with happiness, togetherness, and memorable experiences for everyone.

REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATION



MADURAI: On the occasion of the 77th Republic Day of India, tribute was paid to the nation's democratic principles by the students of St. Joseph Special School. On the morning of the celebration, the campus was prepared by the students and staff through cleaning and decoration. The programme was commenced with Tamizh Thai Vaazhthu. A special parade with the boys was organised by Bro. Susai to welcome the Director. The National Flag was hoisted by the Director, and a message was delivered highlighting the importance of democracy and the sacrifices and hard work of our ancestors in achieving it. The celebration was concluded with the National Anthem.

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BLESSING AND ERECTION OF NEW STATUES

MADURAI: On 13th January, blessings were received at the campus of Soosai Thottam for the erection of statues of St. Antony and St. Joseph, along with two renovated rooms for the workers. The structures were blessed by Rev. Fr. Susai Anthony and Rev. Fr. Samson SdC, with participation from the Legion of Mary. The celebration was concluded with a community meal, during which joy and blessings were shared among all present.

GRATITUDE TO THE EARTH

KUNAMALAI: The Kunamalai Parish recently held a vibrant and meaningful Pongal celebration, centred on expressing heartfelt gratitude to the earth for its role in sustaining humanity. The event was a beautiful expression of unity, tradition, and community spirit. The celebration resembled a large family gathering, especially with the active participation of the Kanthampalayam Substation community. Members brought all the necessary ingredients and



supplies, cooking together as one cohesive unit to prepare the traditional Pongal. Reviving Traditions through Games Under the guidance of Rev. Fr. John Peter, the youth of Kunamalai Parish organised more than ten traditional games. The youth took full responsibility for preparing the equipment and managing the events.

PONGAL CELEBRATION

DINDIGUL: Pongal was joyfully celebrated in Dindigul with the residents and evening school children, making the occasion lively and memorable. The programme was begun with a warm welcome by Rev. Fr. Chandran Navis, and heartfelt Pongal wishes were extended to everyone. In the message delivered, the importance of remembering farmers and praying for their families was highlighted, and their vital role in daily life was recalled.

The atmosphere was filled with joy as traditional Pongal songs were enthusiastically sung by the children. Smiles and positive energy were brought to everyone present through their cheerful performances. Active participation



in the celebration was shown by the residents, and the efforts of the children were warmly appreciated. Colour and cultural richness were added to the event through traditional decorations. The Pongal prepared for the celebration was then blessed by Rev. Fr. Chandran Navis. The programme was happily concluded with the sharing of sugarcane and sweet Pongal, thereby strengthening the spirit of togetherness.

REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATION



DINDIGUL: Republic Day was happily celebrated at Guanella Karunai Illam, Dindigul, with great enthusiasm and patriotism. The day was begun with a solemn Holy Mass, during which God's blessings were invoked for the nation. Following the Mass, the National Flag was hoisted with pride and respect. On this memorable occasion, Rev. Fr. C. Lourdu Raj was invited as the Chief Guest. The National Flag was hoisted by him, and the gathering was addressed with an inspiring and vibrant message. In his speech, the sacrifices of great leaders and freedom fighters who shaped the country were highlighted. Everyone was encouraged to uphold the values of unity, equality, and responsibility as citizens of India. The residents were seen listening attentively, and participation was marked by a strong patriotic spirit. The atmosphere was filled with joy, respect, and national pride. The celebration was further enriched by traditional patriotic songs. Finally, delicious sweets were shared as a symbol of unity and joy. The celebration was concluded with a deep sense of gratitude and love for the nation.

MEANINGFUL HOUSE ACTIVITIES

THALAVADI: During the month of January, many active and meaningful house activities were witnessed at Nazareth Illam. The New Year was joyfully celebrated with a simple outing and a Fire Camp programme. With the support



of priests and staff, the inmates were taken to the nearby Chikkola and Swarnawathy Dams, where relaxation was enjoyed through sightseeing and time spent in the park. On the same night, a Fire Camp activity was organised, during which everyone was brought together around a fire for warmth, a shared meal, and a cultural programme. During the programme, the talents of the inmates were expressed through singing, dancing, and community-building games.

Pongal was also celebrated with great involvement. The day was begun early with the preparation of traditional Pongal in a clay pot, followed by a thanksgiving prayer service. The Pongal pot, sugarcane, and other materials were then blessed by Rev. Fr. Arunkumar. The celebration was continued with traditional competitions such as eating murukku, lemon-in-the-spoon, saakku potti, and pot-breaking, in which active participation was shown by all the inmates. Further, on 25.01.2026, an areca plate-making machine was brought to Nazareth Illam, Home for the Mentally Ill, Thalavadi, as part of a vocational training initiative. This initiative was undertaken with the aim of promoting self-skill development among the residents.



PONGAL CELEBRATION



CHENNAI, DGMS: The Pongal celebration at the DGMS Community was joyfully and reverently observed on 15 January 2026 at 6:30 a.m., reflecting the rich cultural and spiritual heritage of Tamil tradition. The celebration was begun with the traditional preparation of Pongal, symbolizing gratitude to God for the harvest and His abundant blessings. This meaningful cultural ritual set a sacred and festive tone for the day, uniting the community in thanksgiving and joy.

Following this, a solemn Holy Mass was celebrated, presided over by Rev. Fr. R. Gnanaraj, Provincial Superior of the DPP Province, whose presence added grace and significance to the occasion. The celebration was further honoured by the presence of Rev. Fr. Bakthiswalagan, Delegate Councilor from Romania, as the special guest, symbolizing unity and universality within the congregation. Active participation in the preparation of the Eucharistic celebration was shown by the brothers, and the celebration was beautifully enriched with traditional musical instruments such as the harmonium and tabla, creating a prayerful and culturally vibrant atmosphere. The harmonious blend of faith, tradition, and fraternity made the Pongal celebration a memorable and spiritually uplifting experience for the entire community, fostering gratitude, unity, and renewed commitment to service.

REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATION

CHENNAI, DGMS: The Republic Day celebration on 26 January 2026 was joyfully and patriotically observed at DGSS, Chennai, in an atmosphere filled with pride, enthusiasm, and unity. The highlight of the celebration was the inspiring participation of the special children, who confidently performed a parade, drill, and pyramid formation, beautifully showcasing discipline,



teamwork, and their unique abilities with the assistance of the DGSS Staff. The event was thoughtfully organized by the brothers of the DGMS community, whose dedication ensured a meaningful and well-coordinated celebration.

The occasion was further honoured by the presence of the Chief Guest, Rev. Fr. M. Periyanayagam, Superior of the DGMS Community, whose encouragement and support uplifted the spirit of the gathering. The celebration was also enriched by the presence of Guanellian Youth Members from different communities of the DPP, symbolizing unity, national harmony, and shared responsibility toward building a just and inclusive society. The Republic Day celebration at DGSS thus became a memorable event, fostering patriotism, confidence, and a deep sense of belonging among all participants.

PHILOSOPHICAL FORUM



CHENNAI, DGMS: A Philosophical Forum was meaningfully held at the DGMS Community, Chennai, on 29th January 2026 at 6:30 p.m., fostering an atmosphere of intellectual reflection and academic dialogue. The programme was organized and conducted by the brothers of First Year Philosophy under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Yesubabu. The occasion was graced by Rev. Fr. Abraham, Provincial Secretary, as the Chief Guest. The forum was begun with a prayer song, invoking God's guidance, followed by the report of the previous forum, which was presented to set the context for the evening's deliberations. The highlight of the event was a series of three insightful talks on the theme "Crisis of Truth in the Digital Era", during which challenges such as misinformation, digital manipulation, and the erosion of objective truth in contemporary society were critically examined. The forum was concluded with an active reflection, leaving the participants intellectually enriched and made more aware of their philosophical responsibility in the digital age.

PONGAL CELEBRATION

BANGALORE: On 14th January, Pongal was solemnly celebrated at Don Guanella Preethi Nivas, Bangalore, in an atmosphere of prayer and thanksgiving. The celebration was marked by the Holy Mass, which was reverently celebrated by Rev. Fr. Kulandai Sami SdC, invoking God's abundant blessings upon the community. Following the Holy Mass, Pongal was distributed to all those present as a sign of sharing and gratitude. The spirit of the celebration was further strengthened when heartfelt appreciation was expressed to the domestic staff for their dedicated and faithful service to the community. Words of gratitude were conveyed by Rev. Fr. Kulandai Sami SdC, Superior of the community, acknowledging their commitment and valuable contribution to community life. The celebration concluded in a spirit of joy, unity, and thanksgiving, reflecting the true essence of the Pongal festival.



THE WARNING SIGNAL: A NEW ERA FOR SEIZURE SAFETY



BANGALORE: At Don Guanella Home for the Destitutes, a significant step has been taken to enhance the safety and well-being of residents living with epilepsy. Traditionally, assistance could be provided only after a seizure had already begun. Today, a new approach is being adopted, moving from simple detection toward timely warning and response. Through the use of button-driven wearable devices, immediate alerts can be sent to caregivers whenever assistance is required. This enables the prompt administration of rescue medication, which can reduce the severity of seizures and, in some cases, prevent the episode from fully developing.

Though this method remains largely reactive, it has greatly improved safety, confidence, and quality of care for the residents. This initiative has been made possible with the valuable guidance and support of Dr. Raunak, who is pursuing his Doctorate in Pharmacy and has been actively assisting the institution in implementing this project.

NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION



CHELSEA: The residents of St. Louis Center were treated to a joyful celebration to commemorate the New Year on Wednesday, December 31st. Party hats were prepared for the residents with the help of Laura Rayer, Activities Coordinator, before everyone was gathered in the gym for an evening filled with dancing and fun. The celebration provided a wonderful way to bid farewell to 2025 and joyfully welcome the New Year 2026.

PRAYER AND PIZZA



GRASS LAKE: During the month of January, the Shrine was visited by three different groups. The first visit was made by the Little Daughters of St. Joseph on January 10th. During the visit, the girls were introduced to the life of St. Maryanne Cope, who selflessly served lepers in Hawaii. Time was also spent in adoration, confessions, and Holy Mass, followed by fellowship over pizza.

A PATHWAY TO HOLINESS



GRASS LAKE: On January 17th, a group of boys was welcomed to the Shrine for a day retreat. The day was begun with breakfast and a talk addressing the challenges faced by teenage boys today. Adoration, confession, and Holy Mass were then celebrated, followed by lunch and a second talk, helping guide the participants on their journey toward holiness.

A SHOW OF THANKS



CHELSEA: The residents of St. Louis Center have been actively serving as volunteers for the local Meals on Wheels programme. Each weekday, hot meals are delivered to elderly members of the Chelsea community by the residents on a rotating basis. In appreciation of their dedication, a Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon was hosted by the Senior Center on January 21st. The residents were accompanied by Brad Crosier, Direct Care Worker, ensuring that a memorable and enjoyable experience was had by all.

BIRTHDAYS

- 01-FR. I. GEORGE VINSULA
- 06- BRO.S. ARPUTHA RAYAR
- 10-FR. A. KURIAKOSE
- 14-FR. R. AMALORPAVANATHAN
- 15-FR. SILVIO DE NARD
- 18- BRO. J. REX MILTON
- 19-FR. S. SAGAYARAJ
- 23-Fr. R. ARUL PANDIAN
- 24-FR. D. CHANDRA NEVIS
- FR. J. ARPUTHARAJ
- 25-FR. S. FRANCIS

ORDINATION

- 11- FR. R. ARUN
- FR. C. JESU DOSS
- FR. V. JOHNSON
- FR. S. KUMAR
- FR. C. PAUL DHINAGARAN
- FR.V. RAMBABU
- FR. G. SURESH
- FR. X. THAMBU SAMY
- 12- FR. A. SOOSAI RATHINAM